

REMARKS

Claims 39-59 stand objected to on the grounds that a space should be inserted between the greater than or equal to symbol and the number one in claim 39. Claims 39 and 43 have been amended to include the space as suggested. Accordingly, it is believed that the objection has been rendered moot and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claim 64 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, on the grounds that the phrase "wherein the polymer additive" lacks antecedent in claim 60. Claim 64 has been amended so that it depends from claim 63. In view of this amendment, it is believed that the rejection of claim 64 has been rendered moot, and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

The outstanding Office Action reports that the limitations that follow the phrase "about 0" in claims 39, 42, 43, 60, and 73 are optional. This statement in the outstanding Office Action is not understood. In order to avoid possible confusion, the above amendment removed the word "about" before zero.

The outstanding Office Action includes three rejections under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Claims 39-79 stand rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-41 of U.S. Patent No. 6,525,015. Claims 39-79 stand rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-42 of U.S. Patent No. 6,369,021. Claims 39-79 stand rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-40 of U.S. Patent No. 6,649,586. It is pointed out that these are the patents that issued from the parent applications. In order to advance prosecution, enclosed with this amendment is a document entitled "Combined Terminal Disclaimer and Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. §3.73(b)." In view of this terminal disclaimer document, it is believed that the obviousness-type double patenting rejections have been rendered moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the prior art-based rejections is requested.

It is pointed out that the filing of the enclosed terminal disclaimer should not be construed as agreement with the appropriateness of the obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Instead, it is believed that the term of a patent issuing from the above-identified

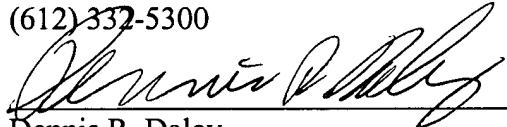
patent application will not be shortened as a result of filing the terminal disclaimer, and that the patent will, in fact, issue sooner.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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